

September 6, 2024

To: Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

From: Debra Mendes
Acting Program Manager
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Coastal Zone Management

Subject: CZM Program Report to MACZAC

National Initiatives

CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Opportunity

The CZM Program has the privilege of administering BIL funds that support the goals and intent of the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the third round of competition (FY24) was posted in mid-June 2024. The CZM Program shared the NOFO with its network and was available for questions and consultations, as requested by interested applicants. Twelve (12) LOIs were submitted and a CZM Evaluation Team selected three (3) LOIs to submit to NOAA for inclusion in the nationwide competition. NOAA anticipates making their selections for full proposal invitations on October 1, 2024.

Hawai'i CZM Program

- Position Vacancies: Program Manager, Office Assistant, and MACZAC Coordinator (in recruitment).
- Section 312 Evaluation
- The Hawai'i CZM is part of the NOAA evaluation cycle in federal FY24. The evaluation covers the period of September 2018 to August 2024. The evaluation committee conducted interviews with CZM stakeholders during their visit, held August 20-22, 2024.
- NOAA conducted an online survey about the implementation of our program and its impacts.
- NOAA also met with MACZAC Chair and Vice Chair to discuss their impressions and concerns with our program.
- CZM Staff contact is Mary Lou Kobayashi.

Ocean Resources Management Plan

- Held an ORMP Coordinated Working Group meeting on May 23, 2024. The agenda included a discussion on the ORMP-related bills that were awaiting Governor's decision for the 2024 Legislative Session, a presentation from NOAA on newly available data, and a presentation from DLNR DAR on the status of the Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program (outcomes of Phase 1 – completed Dec 2023; plans for Phase 2 – in progress). The hybrid meeting was attended by 41 individuals, representing 22 different entities.
- CZM staff are in the early stages of a 2025 ORMP Refresh. This Refresh marks the midway point in the ORMP Implementation phase and will evaluate progress-to-date, as well as chart a strategic path forward for 2025-2030. Currently, CZM staff are conducting an inventory of ORMP implementation projects that have been completed using CZM funding. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards

- Regional Shoreline Management Strategy: CZM, with technical support from Sea Engineering, Inc., completed agency consultations for the *Regional Shoreline Management Strategy* initiative. CZM conducted 10 consultation meetings, with representatives from 18 different State and

County agencies. Deliverables for this contract will include: (1) a final report compiling agency feedback and recommendations for a revised methodology, and (2) an assessment of the availability of existing littoral cell maps, as well as a scoping effort to identify the various levels of granularity at which littoral mapping could be completed, the methodologies, and estimated associated costs. The final products will be completed by December 31, 2024.

The OPSD CZM is a subawardee on UH Sea Grant's NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant award. The project, "Aina restoration through community governance to advance climate resilience in the Hawaiian Islands," identified five moku around the state to focus on moku-scale restoration and resilience building efforts. The OPSD CZM will be working in three moku to pilot the regional shoreline delineation methodology, and then work with three regions (1 per moku) to develop regional-scale adaptation plans. The project is anticipated to begin in October 2024 and will be a 5-year initiative. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

- Coastal Hazards and Social Vulnerability: CZM's NOAA Coastal Fellow began her 2-year fellowship on August 1, 2022. The Fellow's project focuses on the nexus of coastal hazards and social vulnerability in Hawai'i and aims to better understand and identify communities with higher risk of coastal hazards due to socio-economic and demographic factors. An inventory of Social Vulnerability factors that relate to coastal hazards has been created, and data representing those factors were collected for an initial spatial analysis. The initial spatial analysis has been completed and data has been transferred into an online ArcMap. This map has been used to identify areas with a high presence of social vulnerability indicators that overlap with coastal hazard exposure areas. Different community groups that work in these areas were identified and contacted. Interviews with these groups have been completed. The interviews were conducted to ground truth to determine if the results from the map match the lived experiences of the community. Analysis of conducted interviews is in progress. Coastal Fellow is Kristi Kimura.
- Act 178, SLH 2021 – Sea Level Rise and State Facilities: OPSD continues to move forward with the Act 178, SLH 2021 initiative related to sea level rise and State facilities. The OPSD is in the final stages of contract encumbrance and hopes to begin work on the project in September 2024. The scope of work includes developing a standardized process for assessing facility vulnerability to sea level rise and accompanying guidance and training on how to conduct an assessment. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- Managed Retreat Analysis: CZM continues to move forward on the *Analysis of Managed Retreat Strategies in Hawai'i: Policy and Funding Opportunities and Challenges* project. SSFM is the lead consultant with support from Schlack Ito, Solutions Pacific and Integral Consulting. The project team is developing a set of recommendations and implementation actions to create a managed retreat framework. Draft recommendations will be shared with the Action Team for review and discussion. The project will be completed by December 31, 2024. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang
- FY23 Project of Special Merit – Integrating CZM and DHHL: CZM continues to move forward on *Integrating Coastal Zone Management in Hawaiian Home Lands*. The project was developed in collaboration with DHHL and will improve cross-agency coordination in coastal management by (i) identifying current areas of inconsistent legal interpretations and challenges for DHHL beneficiaries when navigating county and State requirements for conducting activities in the shoreline area, as well as (ii) identifying potential strategies to address these major challenges and inconsistencies. The project team has begun developing the analyses of current areas of inconsistent legal interpretations. CZM Staff contact is TBD.
- Silver Jackets – Interagency Coordination: CZM and USACE conducted the second and final workshop in the Silver Jackets Interagency Coordination Project. This project aimed to identify cross-agency coordination-related challenges in making decisions in the shoreline area. The final workshop was held on August 15 and was attended by 26 individuals representing County, State and Federal agencies involved in regulating resources and/or activities within the shoreline area. Workshop attendees worked through two scenarios representing common examples of shoreline

issues (cesspool conversion and undermined seawall) to identify what agencies are involved and when, what triggers would require an agency's involvement, etc. A list of recommended strategies for improving interagency coordination will be compiled based on feedback/comments from these workshops. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

Focus Area II: Land-Based Pollution

- Low Impact Development Guide: CZM contracted Bowers + Kubota Consulting to redevelop the Low Impact Development (LID) Users Guide. This project seeks to update and refresh the Low Impact Development Practitioners Guide that was created in 2006. The updated LID Users Guide seeks to make improvements to the original LID Guide, and to make it more relevant and account for the changes in the evolution of LID while keeping to the essential core of the 2006 guidance. The updated guidance includes such topics as evaluative criteria on LID use; assessment measures for best-management-practices (BMP) and assistance in determining which techniques are best suited for a given environment or situation; and metrics to appraise LID BMP effectiveness as a valuable stormwater management planning tool. The updated guide includes a Decision-Making Matrix (on LID-BMP use), additional local examples of LID design features, better graphics, and greater usability by the readers of the guide. The updated guidance will be used to advise land developers on stormwater management in EA/EIS response communication and will be incorporated into various public and agency outreach efforts on LID-BMPs. The Guide is complete and is available for download from the OPSD Website at: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_implementation/2023LIDPractitionersGuide.pdf CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekekia.
- Expanding the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to include Moloka'i: CZM has completed the procurement phase of this project and has obtained professional services to expand the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to include Moloka'i. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.
- Silver Jackets Proposal – Alternative Watershed-based Plan for Lahaina (Kahoma and Kaua'ula watersheds): Due to federal budget cuts, the USACE has put a hold on the funding of all new Silver Jackets projects. However, DOH has acquired funding from the EPA for technical assistance for initial scoping and planning activities for a watershed plan for the Lahaina watersheds. CZM and DOH are still looking for funding to support the development of the actual watershed plan. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems

- Community-Based Monitoring Program: CZM continues to move forward in the piloting phase II of the Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program. CZM is working with DLNR-DAR to evaluate and implement the framework created in Phase I of the project which completed in December of 2023. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2024 but will likely be extended as a result of personnel gaps and changes. CZM Staff contact TBD.
- Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer: CZM is working with DAR to develop a statewide estuaries' viewer. The project consists of two main tasks: (1) complete the collection of aerial imagery of stream mouths and bays across the main Hawaiian Islands; and (2) create an online map viewer to share estuary locations, attributes, and imagery with both stakeholders and the public. CZM staff, with review from DAR staff, have selected ManuIwa Airways, Inc. as the contractor to provide helicopter services to complete imagery collection, and Pacific Geospatial Services, LLC as the contractor to develop the viewer. The project is underway and is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2024. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.

Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- On July 23, 2024, the Hawaii CZM Program received a verbal approval from NOAA and EPA of the outstanding management measure (Operating Onsite Disposal Systems) and administrative element (Monitoring and Tracking) necessary for full approval of the CNPCP. We await NOAA

and EPA to complete their internal legal reviews over the next 6 months or so. CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes.

Climate Change Adaptation

- OPSD Director and CZM Program Manager serve as Commissioners on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.
- The Commission had a meeting on February 7, 2024, with discussion on Climate Change initiatives, strategies on equity for climate solutions, statewide decarbonization strategy and update on EPA climate pollution reduction grant.

County CZM

- Contract for Shoreline Pursuit Project Phases 8 and 9 – Enhanced Imaging Processing for Priority Coastal Atlas and Shoreline Atlas Web GIS Application under the County of Hawaii has been executed. The project will produce a shoreline atlas web GIS application, tools, package, and configuration model.
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Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. No New Activity.
- Hawai'i CZM is also participating in the Adapt Waikīkī 2050 working group led by the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting for the development of a climate adaptation plan for the *Waikīkī* Special District.
- CZM is further working with NOAA geospatial services for design and preliminary development of a Hawai'i statewide online beach inventory database and viewer. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li.
- CZM Program is involved with a number of external groups and activities:
 - Coral Reef Initiative Working Group (DLNR-DAR)
 - Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
 - Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and HISC Resource Committee
 - State Hazard Mitigation Forum (HiEMA)
 - Coastal States Organization
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements and SMA use permit applications per request from the county planning departments to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered.